

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 and 6 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application.

In the Final Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected.

In this Amendment, Claim 1 is amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this Amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 1-3 and 6 remain at issue.

**I. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims**

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been appropriately amended as required by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the claim rejection be withdrawn.

**II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims**

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Okazaki* (U.S. Patent No. 5,670,797) in view of *Cok* (U.S. Patent No. 6,879,319), and further in view of *Sekiguchi* (U.S. Patent No. 6,771,327). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The instant application claims priority to the Japanese Patent Application No. JP2002-288801, which was filed on October 1, 2002. One of the two cited references cited by the Examiner for this 103(a) claim rejection, *Cok*, was filed in the United States on October 25, 2002. As such, *Okazaki*, *Cok* and *Sekiguchi* may not be properly combined to reject Claims 1-3 and 6.

In order to overcome the date of the *Cok* reference and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55, Applicant hereby encloses an English translation of the certified copy of the corresponding Japanese Application No. JP2002-288803 relied upon for foreign priority claims. In addition, a statement that the English translation of the certified copy is accurate is also enclosed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that Claims 1-3 and 6 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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